

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232640

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 6250 ACTION SECSTATE 15 SEP QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, SA
SUBJ: LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM PRINCE SAUD

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED TODAY SEPTEMBER 15 FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE
SECRETARY FROM PRINCE SAUD DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 1976. BEGIN TEXT:
"HIS EXCELLENCY, DR HENRY KISSINGER, SECRETARY OF
STATE. EXCELLENCY:

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO RECEIVE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LETTER
CONCERNING THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE ON LAW
OF THE SEA CONVENING IN NEW YORK, WHICH NOTED THE IMPORTANCE
OF DEBATES AT THESE MEETINGS AND EFFORTS EXERTED BY THE
US GOVERNMENT TO RENDER THIS SESSION SUCCESSFUL, IN FUL-
FILLMENT OF HOPES ENTERTAINED BY PEOPLES OF THE EARTH, AND
IN A MANNER WHICH SAFEGUARDS FOR THE ENTIRE STATES OF THE
WORLD THEIR VITAL INTERESTS IN THIS PART OF OUR EARTHLY
PLANET, BASED ON JUSTICE AND EQUITY.

AS YOUR EXCELLENCY NOTED, DESPITE WHAT SEEMS TO BE A
CLOSE ACCORD ON CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT SUBJECTS BROUGHT UP FOR
DISCUSSION, FOR EXAMPLE, PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS, WIDTH OF
TERRITORIAL SEA, AND RIGHTS OF COASTAL STATES WITH
REGARD TO THE REGION'S ECONOMIC RESOURCES, AS YOU STATED
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THERE CONTINUES TO BE A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH MUST BE

GIVEN GREATER CARE SO THAT AGREEMENT ON THEM MAY BE REACHED, SUCH AS THE EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL WEALTH IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREA, THE DEVISING OF A FORMULA FOR DEMARCATING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BEYOND THE 200-MILE LIMIT, THE ORGANIZATION OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, THE PROTECTION OF THE SEA ENVIRONMENT FROM POLLUTION, AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.

IT GIVES ME PLEASURE ON THIS OCCASION TO ASSURE YOU THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S VIEWPOINT CONCURS WITH THAT OF THE US GOVERNMENT AS SET FORTH IN YOUR LETTER WITH REGARD TO THE ORGANIZED EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL WEALTH IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREA, THE NEED FOR A FORMULA TO DEMARCATHE THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BEYOND THE 200-MILE LIMIT AND THE SYSTEM OF ITS EXPLOITATION, THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, AND THE IMPERATIVE PROTECTION OF THE SEA ENVIRONMENT FROM POLLUTION. AS FOR YOUR EXCELLENCY'S SUGGESTION TO ESTABLISH COMPULSORY ARBITRATION FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT PREFERS TO ADOPT OPTIONAL SETTLEMENT AT THIS DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. I SHARE YOUR HOPE THAT THE CONFEREES WILL BE ABLE TO REACH CONSENSUS ON ORGANIZED RELATIONS AMONG WORLD STATES IN THIS FIELD, ONE WHICH REFLECTS THEIR READINESS FOR COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE THEIR CHERISHED ASPIRATIONS THROUGH THE PRINCIPLES OF LOVE, PEACE, AND BROTHERHOOD.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU IN MID-SEPTEMBER IN THE CAPITAL OF YOUR FRIENDLY COUNTRY.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE REGARDS AND HIGHEST ESTEEM.

SAUD AL-FAISAL

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

END TEXT.

2. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO NEA/ARP. HORAN
UNQTE. ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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